



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CITY OF McCOOK ASSIST 13 RURAL RESIDENCES TO OBTAIN WATER

McCook, Neb., August 10, 2005-The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development awarded \$150,000 to the City of McCook to help run approximately 1.5 miles of transmission main from the City to 13 rural homes located in the Willow Grove Precinct, outside corporate limits. These residences are experiencing acute water shortages due to ongoing drought conditions. The rural water users will contribute \$24,000 towards the project.

"The McCook City Council is pleased to be able to work with these 13 families in connecting them to our municipal water system," stated John Bingham, city manager for City of McCook. "An alternative connection to enable these families to receive water from the City this winter has been arranged, should this pipeline be in place before the new water treatment plant is completed."

Proposed water project will connect and place a transmission line from the future McCook water treatment plant to rural residences about three miles south of McCook. Immediate domestic water supply will be provided by placing lines from the homes to City well #3 located adjacent to the plant site. Water mains will connect to the plant that is scheduled to be completed in early 2006. Project consists of installation of water mains, two fire hydrants, service connections, and associated components.

"The rural users benefiting from the USDA funding have experienced a significant decline in their well production capabilities and in some cases have had to discontinue the use of their wells and resort to developing a new water source a considerable distance from their residence or to hauling water," stated Roberta Mues, community programs specialist for USDA Rural Development. "Connecting to McCook's municipal water system is the most economically feasible solution for the affected rural water users."

USDA funds derived from the USDA Rural Development Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant program. For additional information contact Roberta Mues, (308) 534-2360, (402) 437-5093 (TDY); bert.mues@ne.usda.gov; 1202 S. Cottonwood North Platte, Neb. 69101. Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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